CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. A method for treating or preventing a tumor necrosis factor-mediated disease in an individual in need thereof comprising co-administering methotrexate and a TNFα antagonist to said individual, in therapeutically effective amounts.

2. A method of Claim 1 wherein said TNFα antagonist and methotrexate are administered simultaneously.

3. A method of Claim 1 wherein said TNFα antagonist and methotrexate are administered sequentially.

4. A method of Claim 1 wherein the tumor necrosis factor-mediated disease is selected from the group consisting of: autoimmune disease, acute or chronic immune disease, inflammatory disease and neurodegenerative disease.

5. A method of Claim 4 wherein said TNFα antagonist is administered in multiple doses.

6. A method of Claim 1 wherein said TNFα antagonist prevents or inhibits TNFα synthesis or TNFα release.

7. A method of Claim 6 wherein said TNFα antagonist is a phosphodiesterase inhibitor.

8. A method of Claim 7 wherein said phosphodiesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of: pentoxifylline and rolipram.

9. A method of Claim 6 wherein said TNFα antagonist is selected from the group consisting of: thalidomide and tenidap.

10. A method of Claim 6 wherein said TNFα antagonist is selected from the group consisting of: a A2b adenosine receptor agonist and a A2b adenosine receptor enhancer.

11. A method of Claim 5 wherein said TNFα antagonist is an anti-TNFα antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

12. A method of Claim 11 wherein said anti-TNFα antibody or antigen-binding fragment is a chimeric antibody or chimeric fragment, wherein said chimeric antibody or chimeric fragment comprises a non-human variable region specific for TNFα or an antigen-binding portion thereof and a human constant region.

13. A method of Claim 12 wherein said chimeric antibody binds to one or more epitopes included in amino acid residues set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

14. A method of Claim 13 wherein said chimeric antibody competitively inhibits binding of TNFα to monoclonal antibody cA2.

15. A method of Claim 13 wherein said chimeric antibody is monoclonal antibody cA2.

16. A method of Claim 11 wherein said anti-TNFα antibody is a humanized antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

17. A method of Claim 16 wherein said humanized antibody binds to one or more epitopes included in amino acid residues set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

18. A method of Claim 11 wherein said anti-TNFα antibody is a resurfaced antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

19. A method of Claim 18 wherein said resurfaced antibody binds to one or more epitopes included in amino acid residues set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

20. A method of Claim 5 wherein said TNFα antagonist is a soluble TNFα receptor or functional portion thereof.

21. A method of Claim 20 wherein said soluble TNFα receptor is selected from the group consisting of: p55 TNFα receptor and p75 TNFα receptor.

22. A method of Claim 20 wherein said soluble TNFα receptor is a TNFα receptor multimeric molecule.

23. A method of Claim 20 wherein said soluble TNFα receptor is a TNFα receptor immunoreceptor fusion molecule.

24. A method for treating or preventing arthritis in an individual in need thereof comprising co-administering methotrexate and a TNFα antagonist to said individual, in therapeutically effective amounts.

25. A method of Claim 24 wherein said TNFα antagonist and methotrexate are administered simultaneously.

26. A method of Claim 24 wherein said TNFα antagonist and methotrexate are administered sequentially.

27. A method of Claim 24 wherein said TNFα antagonist is administered in multiple doses.

28. A method of Claim 24 wherein said TNFα antagonist prevents or inhibits TNFα synthesis or TNFα release.

29. A method for treating or preventing rheumatoid arthritis in an individual in need thereof comprising co-administering methotrexate and a TNFα antagonist to said individual, in therapeutically effective amounts.

30. A method of Claim 29 wherein said TNFα antagonist and methotrexate are administered simultaneously.

31. A method of Claim 29 wherein said TNFα antagonist and methotrexate are administered sequentially.

32. A method of Claim 29 wherein said TNFα antagonist is administered in multiple doses.

33. A method of Claim 29 wherein said TNFα antagonist prevents or inhibits TNFα synthesis or TNFα release.

34. A method for treating or preventing Crohn's disease in an individual in need thereof comprising co-administering methotrexate a TNFα antagonist to said individual, in therapeutically effective amounts.

35. A method of Claim 34 wherein said TNFα antagonist and methotrexate are administered simultaneously.

36. A method of Claim 34 wherein said TNFα antagonist and methotrexate are administered sequentially.

37. A method of Claim 34 wherein said TNFα antagonist is administered in multiple doses.

38. A method of Claim 34 wherein said TNFα antagonist prevents or inhibits TNFα synthesis or TNFα release.